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to write to the Collector of the District of North Arcot and ask him for a report on the matter and if he is satisfied with the accuracy of these allegations to prosecute the officer concerned on these allegations in a court of law."

* The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"I may say, Sir, that I did not say that I was entitled to get a further assurance from the hon. Member. I merely stated that I would not take the action suggested in the circumstances."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, my recollection is that the hon. the Revenue Member said that in cases of this sort further assurance from the questioner was necessary before he would take action in the matter. When the question is put in this form, I think the Government should take whatever action it is possible for them to take and not ask for further assurance in this matter."

* The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" As I said, I did not contend that I was entitled to ask for further assurance."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question for consideration is whether when a Member takes responsibility for the allegations contained in his question, the Government will be justified in asking for further assurance as to the truth of the allegations. Where Members refer to newspaper reports in their questions, my predecessor has held they should take the responsibility for the allegations in them by incorporating such allegations in their questions and not stop with merely referring to the newspapers. I think that the mere incorporation of the allegations in the question is sufficient so far as the questioner is concerned. It is for the Government to decide what answer they should give and they are not justified in asking for any further assurances."

V

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce to the House that I have appointed the following four gentlemen to be a panel of chairmen for this session :—

(1) Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan.
(2) Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar.
(3) Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
(4) Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai."

VI

MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE IN *RE* THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY STRIKE.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, I ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the action taken by the Madras Government in connexion with the recent strike of the workers in the South Indian Railway, especially their indifference to arbitrate between the workers and the Company."

" The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I wish to know whether there is any objection to my holding this motion to be in order."

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* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, I should like to point out that there is no urgency about the matter. There is no strike at present ; it has come to a close. All the workers on the line have joined duty. With regard to the workshop labourers, I think that all of them have resigned their jobs and are getting their bonuses and gratuities. Under the circumstances there is nothing for the Government to arbitrate."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"There is a good deal for the Government to arbitrate upon. It is a matter of opinion, I submit. At present, the workshop men are resigning because they must."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Are they resigning or have they all resigned ?"

12-30 p.m. * Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"They have not all resigned ; they are resigning and their places are being filled up by other people. Those who have resigned are also invited to come back on certain new conditions. That position is not yet over.

"Secondly, Sir, the Agent had offered to arbitrate on the question of the grievances of the menials, as they are called, and the running staff. But after the strike was over, that offer was withdrawn. Even to-day those grievances have not been redressed. The Agent has withdrawn the recognition of the union and there are to-day constant disputes between the Railway Company and the workers in the settlement of which, it is our opinion, that the Government may usefully arbitrate. That is the urgency of the matter and we believe that, if the matter was discussed, it can be shown the Government can usefully interfere and prevent the deadlock."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"On the question of arbitration, Sir, I submit that the Government can interfere as arbitrators only if both the parties consent. Here there are two parties, the Railway authorities and the labourers. The Government can interfere as arbitrators only if the two parties concerned agree."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"We are not now going into the merits of the question. Is it a point of order ?"

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"If both the parties do not agree as to the points on which there should be arbitration, how can the Government arbitrate ?"

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"The answer to the hon. Member's question is contained in his own statement. If the two parties consent, there is matter for arbitration by the Government. Our point of view is that there are conditions existing in which the arbitration of the Government can be found to be possible and useful."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think the motion is in order.

"I wish to know whether it is objected to. (After a pause.) Since no objection is raised, before I fix the time, I wish to know the convenience of the Government to take up this motion to-day or to-morrow."

* The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"To-morrow, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I fix 2-30 p.m to-morrow for the discussion of the motion.

"The notices of other adjournment motions will wait for to-morrow."